Calvary Chapel Living Water

The Tongue

**Ephesians 4:29**

**29**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**Philippians 2:3-4**

**3***Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4**Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION

Your words and the manner in which you speak are critical to harmonious relationships. As you learn to speak the truth in love, you must also determine when to speak, how to speak in an edifying manner, and to whom you should speak. The power of your words is enormous, and they also show the condition of your heart. Even your idle words will be accounted for in the day of judgment.

I. **What do your words reveal?**

A. Your words are a mirror of your heart. **Luke 6:45**A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

B. Your words reflect your intent to heal or to hurt. **Proverbs 11:9** The hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

**Proverbs 11:11**

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

**Proverbs 12:18**

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.

**Proverbs 14:25**

A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful *witness* speaks lies.

**Proverbs 15:4**

A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

**Proverbs 16:24**

Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

**Proverbs 16:28**

A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

**Proverbs 18:21**

Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

C. Your words are indicators of your spiritual maturity. **Ecclesiastes 10:12-14** The words of a wise man’s mouth *are* gracious, But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up;

**13**

The words of his mouth begin with foolishness, And the end of his talk *is* raving madness.

**14**

A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be; Who can tell him what will be after him?

**2 Timothy 2:16**

**16**But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

**James 1:26**

**26**If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless.

**James 3:1-6**

**3**My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. **2**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. **3**Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. **4**Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5**Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6**And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

D. Your words reveal a self-focus (by cursing) or a focus on God and others (by blessing). **James 3:9-12**With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10**Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. **11**Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? **12**Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

**1 Peter 3:8-10**

**8**Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; **9**not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. **10**For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

**II. To whom should you speak?**

A. Speak with the Lord first in order to gain His perspective. **James 1:5**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

B. Speak to yourself next, to determine changes you may need to make. **Matthew 7:1-5**

**7**“Judge not, that you be not judged. **2**For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. **3**And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? **4**Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? **5**Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

**Romans 2:21**

**21**You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

C. Speak to the wise, not to the foolish scoffer. **Proverbs 9:7-9** “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked *man only* harms himself. **8**Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man,* and he will love you. **9**Give *instruction* to a wise *man,* and he will be still wiser; Teach a just *man,* and he will increase in learning.

**Proverbs 19:25**

Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; Rebuke one who has understanding, *and* he will discern knowledge.

**Proverbs 23:9**

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

D. Speak to the receptive, not to the quarrelsome. **Proverbs 17:14**The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

**Proverbs 20:3**

*It is* honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

E. Speak only to those who need to know. **Proverbs 11:13-14**A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. **14**Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

F. Speak to those who need hope, comfort, restoration, or regeneration (spiritual new birth). **Matthew 28:19-20**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

**3**Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4**who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

**18**Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19**that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20**Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

**1 Peter 3:15**

**15**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

**III. When should you speak?**

A. Speak after gathering facts. **Proverbs 18:13**He who answers a matter before he hears *it,* It *is* folly and shame to him.

**Proverbs 29:20**

Do you see a man hasty in his words? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.

1. Listen attentively, rather than concentrating on what you are going to say. **Proverbs 10:19**

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.

**Proverbs 15:28**

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

**Proverbs 18:2**

A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

2. Listen to all sides; don’t jump to conclusions. **Proverbs 18:13** He who answers a matter before he hears *it,* It *is* folly and shame to him.

**Proverbs 18:17**

The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

3. Focus on facts, not opinions. Ask who, what, where, when, and how (not why) questions. **Proverbs 13:10** By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.

**Proverbs 18:15**

The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

**2 Timothy 2:23**

**23**But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

4. Ask questions to gain insight, not those that merely solicit a “yes” or “no” response. **Proverbs 20:5** Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.

B. Speak after thinking. **Proverbs 13:3**He who guards his mouth preserves his life, *But* he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

**Proverbs 15:28**

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

**Proverbs 18:13**

He who answers a matter before he hears *it,* It *is* folly and shame to him.

**Proverbs 21:23**

Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

**James 1:19**

**19**So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

C. Speak at the appropriate time. **Proverbs 15:23** A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word *spoken* in due season, how good *it is!*

**Proverbs 25:11**

A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold In settings of silver.

1. Make the most of any opportunity to provide grace in building up others. **Ephesians 4:29**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**Colossians 4:5-6**

**5**Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. **6***Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

2. Speak with a blessing even when insulted or persecuted. **Proverbs 20:22** Do not say, “I will recompense evil”; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

**Romans 12:14**

**14**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

**1 Peter 3:8-9**

**8**Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; **9**not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

3. When appropriate, help another by admonishing, correcting, and restoring him. **Romans 15:14**Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

**Galatians 6:1**

**6**Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

**Colossians 1:28**

**28**Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25**

**24**And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, **25**in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

**IV. How should you speak?**

A. Speak in love. **Ephesians 4:15**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

1. Love is patient, is kind, is not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

2. Love covers transgressions whenever possible and Biblically appropriate. **Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

**1 Peter 4:8**

**8**And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

B. Speak with control over emotions. **Proverbs 15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Proverbs 16:32**

*He who is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

**Proverbs 17:27**

He who has knowledge spares his words, *And* a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

**Ephesians 4:25-27**

**25**Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let* each one *of you* speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. **26**“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **27**nor give place to the devil.

C. Speak without quarrelling. **Proverbs 17:14** The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

**Proverbs 20:3**

*It is* honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25**

**24**And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, **25**in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

D. Speak with sweetness, gentleness, graciousness, and reverence. **Proverbs 15:1**A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Proverbs 16:21**

The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

**Proverbs 16:24**

Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

**Proverbs 25:15**

By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

**Colossians 4:6**

**6***Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

**1 Peter 3:15**

**15**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

…, and yet with confidence and authority. **Titus 2:15**Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

**Titus 3:8**

**8**This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

E. Speak with a blessing in response to insults. **Proverbs 20:22** Do not say, “I will recompense evil”; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

**Romans 12:14**

**14**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

**1 Peter 3:9**

**9**not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

F. Speak in a manner that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **Psalm 19:14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

**1 Thessalonians 2:4**

**4**But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

**V. What should you not say?**

A. You should not lie. **Exodus 20:16**“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**Exodus 23:1**

**23**“You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

**Psalm 31:18**

Let the lying lips be put to silence, Which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

**Proverbs 4:24**

Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

**Proverbs 6:12**

A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth;

**Proverbs 6:16-19**

These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:**17**A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, **18**A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, **19**A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

**Proverbs 8:13**

The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

**Proverbs 12:22**

Lying lips *are* an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

**Proverbs 19:5**

A false witness will not go unpunished, And *he who* speaks lies will not escape.

**Ephesians 4:25**

**25**Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let* each one *of you* speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

**Colossians 3:9**

**9**Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

**Revelation 22:15**

**15**But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

B. You should not use words that are unwholesome, slanderous, malicious, or abusive, since these are practices of the old self. **Ephesians 4:29**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**Ephesians 4:31**

**31**Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

**Colossians 3:8**

**8**But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

C. You should not curse or speak with bitterness since these are signs of wickedness and unrighteousness. **Psalm 10:2-11**The wicked in *his* pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. **3**For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the Lord. **4**The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God;* God *is* in none of his thoughts. **5**His ways are always prospering; Your judgments *are* far above, out of his sight; *As for* all his enemies, he sneers at them. **6**He has said in his heart, “I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity.” **7**His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue *is* trouble and iniquity. **8**He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. **9**He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net. **10**So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength. **11**He has said in his heart, “God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see.”

**Romans 3:10-18**

**10**As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; **11**There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12**They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” **13**“Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;  “The poison of asps *is* under their lips”; **14**“Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.” **15**“Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; **16**Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; **17**And the way of peace they have not known.” **18**“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

D. You should not speak in a silly, joking, or coarse manner since this is not fitting behavior for a child of God. **Proverbs 26:18-19** Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, **19***Is* the man *who* deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking!”

**Ephesians 5:4**

**4**neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

E. You should avoid worldly and empty chatter since this leads to further ungodliness. **1 Timothy 6:20**O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

**2 Timothy 2:16**

**16**But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

F. You should not talk too much or be quick to speak since this leads to unavoidable transgression and is characteristic of an undisciplined life. **Psalm 39:1**I said, “I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.”

**Psalm 141:3**

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

**Proverbs 10:19**

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.

**James 1:19**

**19**So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

G. It is deceptive to use flattering words for the purpose of gaining an advantage, since this is ruinous to loving relationships. **Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

**Proverbs 29:5**

A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.

**1 Thessalonians 2:3-7**

**3**For our exhortation *did* not *come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit. **4**But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. **5**For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. **6**Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. **7**But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.

**Jude 1:16**

**16**These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

H. You should not gossip, since this reveals a contentious spirit within you and fosters contention between others. **Proverbs 18:8** The words of a talebearer *are* like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

**Proverbs 20:19**

He who goes about *as* a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

**Proverbs 26:20**

Where *there is* no wood, the fire goes out; And where *there is* no talebearer, strife ceases.

1. Gossip is to be put away from your life, and you are not to associate with gossips. As Proverbs 20:19 pointedly states, “He who goes about as a slanderer (talebearer, scandal-monger) reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip (one who flatters with his lips).”

2. You can quiet contention by putting off gossip, as Proverbs 26:20 states, “For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer (gossip, talebearer), contention quiets down.”

I. You should not boast about what you have accomplished or what you plan to do since all you have accomplished in the past or all you may accomplish in the future is a gift of God’s grace. Furthermore, boasting about yourself is a sin of arrogance and a failure to recognize God’s sovereignty and enablement in your life. **Psalm 75:1-8**We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near. **2**“When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. **3**The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly. *Selah* **4**“I said to the boastful, ‘Do not deal boastfully,’ And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn. **5**Do not lift up your horn on high; Do *not* speak with a stiff neck.’” **6**For exaltation *comes* neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. **7**But God *is* the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. **8**For in the hand of the Lord *there is* a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain *and* drink down.

**Proverbs 27:1**

Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

**23**Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; **24**But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.

**James 4:13-16**

**13**Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **14**whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15**Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” **16**But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

**VI. What should you speak?**

A. Always speak truth. **Ephesians 4:15**

**15**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**Ephesians 4:25**

**25**Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let* each one *of you* speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

B. You should speak God’s Words rather than man’s philosophies. **Proverbs 30:5-6**Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **6**Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

**Isaiah 55:8-11**“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord. **9**“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. **10**“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, **11**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

**1 Peter 1:24-25**

**24**because “All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, **25**But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

C. Use only wholesome words that give grace to those who hear. **Proverbs 15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Ephesians 4:29**

**29**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**Colossians 4:6**

**6***Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

1. Do not tear down or belittle others with words like “that’s stupid” or “you are always wrong,” but instead concentrate on building up one another.

2. Focus on meeting the need of the moment.

D. Speak with a view to reconcile others to the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:20**Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

E. Speak to give witness to the Lord. **1 Peter 3:15**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

F. Your speech should give thanks and praise to the Lord. **Psalm 9:1** I will praise *You,* O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

**Ephesians 5:4**

**4**neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

**Ephesians 5:20**

**20**giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Colossians 3:17**

**17**And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**Psalm 145:1-7**

I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. **2**Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. **3**Great *is* the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness *is* unsearchable. **4**One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. **5**I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. **6***Men* shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. **7**They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.

**Psalm 150:1-6**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! **2**Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! **3**Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! **4**Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! **5**Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! **6**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

G. Boast of God’s righteousness, mercy, justice and His work of grace provided through Christ Jesus for you. **Psalm 20:7** Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

**Psalm 44:8**

In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever. *Selah*

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

**23**Thus says the Lord:

“Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;

**24**

But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

**26**For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* **27**But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; **28**and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, **29**that no flesh should glory in His presence. **30**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— **31**that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”