



## **SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE**

Pastor Charlie Riley

### **EVERY WORD COUNTS WEEK 1**

#### **OPENING & PRAYER:**

Every word carries kingdom-level force. Language operates as a spiritual law that shapes reality; words function like a framework that brings unseen things into the seen. Natural laws—gravity, cause and effect, thermodynamics—show how fixed principles govern the material world. Likewise, spiritual laws govern outcomes regardless of preference or status: the law of faith, the law of sowing and reaping, the law of sin and death, and the law of life in Christ all move with consistent predictability. Where the law of sin and death holds sway, the law of life in Christ provides an overriding principle that raises believers into new functioning without nullifying the original law.

“Lord, thank you for giving us authority through the use of our words in our lives. Please guide our study and conversations as we navigate how to use our words effectively and Biblically. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## SCRIPTURE:

because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **Romans 1:19-20**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. **Genesis 1:1-4**

"And God Said", "and it was so."  
**Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14-15,20,24,26**

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. **Hebrews 11:3**

while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:18**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **Genesis 1:26**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man (Mature), able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. **James 3:1-3**

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. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **James 3:4-5**

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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **James 3:6-7**

But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the

similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. **James 3:8-10**

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. **James 3:11-12**

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”  
**Matthew 12:37**

You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.  
**Proverbs 6:2**

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. **John 6:63**

A fool’s lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. **Proverbs 18:6-8**

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.  
**Proverbs 18:21**

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

## GO DEEPER:

Creation itself models the power of speech: God framed the world by speaking, and the visible formed from the invisible through the word. Human beings reflect that pattern—made in God’s image and likeness—so speech functions as a creative instrument. Words plant pictures in the inner person; those inner pictures govern behavior and destiny. The tongue becomes a paintbrush that repeatedly traces the reality a person lives in, and repeated confession cements patterns of blessing or bondage.

The Bible asserts that the tongue directs the course of life the way a rudder steers a massive ship. Small speech choices produce outsized results: a little fire kindles a forest, a small rudder changes a voyage. Uncontrolled speech defiles and ensnares; controlled speech disciplines the whole body and redirects the path of a life. Confessing problems without declaring contrary truth merely reinforces the problem;

sustained, contrary confession rewrites the inner picture over time, requiring patience and consistency.

Words are not neutral; Scripture calls them spirit and they carry life or death. God sets before humanity the choice to speak life and blessing or curse and death. Choosing blessing and guarding the tongue becomes an act of spiritual stewardship that produces tangible change in relationships, finances, health, and legacy. The consistent practice of speaking life aligns inner vision with eternal realities and unleashes the transformational laws God designed.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

**1. Words frame present reality.** Repeated speech constructs an internal image that becomes outwardly visible. Speech functions as a framing tool: what is declared frequently shapes expectation, perception, and therefore action. Altering that frame requires intentional, consistent confession of truth that contradicts the entrenched picture. Change unfolds gradually; habitual new speech retrains imagination and redirects outcomes. **[26:53]**

**2. Tongue paints the heart's picture.** Every phrase paints an inner portrait that guides decisions and behavior. The tongue serves as the brush that transfers unseen beliefs into visible life; habitual words reinforce identity and destiny. Learning to choose language deliberately rewrites the heart's artwork and shifts the life it produces. **[21:12]**

**3. Spiritual laws operate always.** Spiritual principles function with the same predictability as natural laws and do not favor status or sentiment. Knowing how these laws work—faith, sowing and reaping, life in Christ—enables wise cooperation rather than passive hoping. Alignment with higher spiritual laws produces override-power against lesser forces. **[06:09]**

**4. Choose blessing; speak life.** Deuteronomy and Proverbs place life and death before every person; speech is the chosen instrument. Deliberate blessing breaks generational and situational cycles by implanting a contrary picture that faith can act upon. Consistent words of life sustain hope, alter relationships, and harvest lasting fruit. **[39:03]**

## LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to James 3, what two illustrations does the author use to describe the power of something small to direct something much larger?
2. Why do you think James compares the tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth and a ship's rudder? What does this reveal about the relationship between our words and the direction of our lives?
3. The sermon mentioned that "your tongue is the paintbrush of your life." **[21:12]** What does it mean for our words to "paint" our reality, and how does this relate to being made in God's image and likeness?
4. What's one area of your life where you've been "confessing the problem" instead of "declaring contrary truth"? **[33:34]** What's one biblical promise you can begin speaking over that situation this week?
5. How can you and your family (or small group) hold each other accountable to speak words that bring life and blessing rather than death and cursing?

## CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We look forward to finding ways to use our words as power over our lives and situations. We ask that You guide us through this shift in our lives and continue to lead us in every conversation with ourselves and others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."