



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

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EVERY WORD COUNTS WEEK 2

OPENING & PRAYER:

Every word matters as both a law and a way of life. Words carry creative power because humans were made in God's image; speaking functions like a rudder that steers the whole life. Words spoken habitually frame tomorrow: if today's speech stays the same, tomorrow will mirror it. Controlling the tongue marks spiritual maturity, and a disciplined heart precedes a disciplined mouth. When the heart changes, the mouth aligns and the entire life follows.

"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:

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

Proverbs 18:21

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. 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. **James 3:2-4**

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. **Mark 4:35-36**

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" **Mark 4:37-38**

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" **Mark 4:39-41**

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." **Matthew 8:5-7**

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." **Matthew 8:8-9**

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" **Matthew 8:8-10**

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. **Matthew 8:13**

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it. **Mark 11:12-14**

Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." **Mark 11:20-21**

So Jesus answered and said to them,
"Have faith in God. **Mark 11:22**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. **Galatians 2:16 KJV**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20 KJV**

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. (Have God-kind of Faith) For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. **Mark 11:22-23**

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. **Mark 11:22**

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." **John 11:40-42**

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." **John 11:43-44**

GO DEEPER:

Scripture offers vivid examples of spoken authority. Jesus rebuked wind and waves with a command—“Peace, be still”—demonstrating direct speech to circumstances rather than pleading. A Roman centurion recognized delegated authority and asked only for a word; words resulted in instantaneous healing. The fig tree withered after a spoken curse; the dead man left the tomb after a direct command. Each case shows speech accomplishing what invitation or supplication did not.

Faith functions as the operative power that links word and reality. The text distinguishes between having faith in God and having the faith of God—Christ’s faith dwelling in the believer. Hearing the Word produces faith; allowing that Word to fill the heart brings rest and confidence; only then should the mouth speak. Spoken words must emerge from settled conviction, not from frantic hoping. When hearing, heart, resting faith, speech, and obedient action align, the natural course of events shifts.

Practical application flows from the fivefold rhythm: hear the Word, let faith rise in the heart, rest fully in the promise, speak that settled word aloud, and pair words with faithful action. This pattern applies to health, provision, wisdom, and household salvation. Words without the heart’s conviction remain ineffective; likewise, faith without action stalls change. The combination of interior transformation and verbal declaration activates God-given authority and moves conditions toward the promised future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Words frame your tomorrow. Speaking today sets the trajectory for what follows. Repeating fear, complaint, or doubt constructs patterns that persist; conversely, speaking truth reshapes expectations and behavior. Intentional speech becomes a spiritual discipline that reorients circumstances over time. **[07:15]**

2. Speech reveals the heart's condition. Mouth and heart operate as one system: words disclose what the heart contains. Unchecked language exposes inner unbelief, while disciplined speech reveals transformed affections and convictions. Reforming the heart produces lasting change in spoken life and outward conduct. **[02:44]**

3. Authority to speak, not plead. Direct commands in Scripture change situations more often than entreaties. Exercising delegated authority—speaking to storms, disease, or death—reflects confidence in Christ's indwelling power. Learning to speak with resolute faith aligns behavior with the authority already granted. **[09:55]**

4. Prepare belief before you speak. Premature declarations lack the power of settled conviction; words must arise from a heart already convinced by Scripture. The sequence—hear, let faith grow, rest in God's promise, then speak—ensures words carry durable influence. Combine spoken faith with corresponding action to produce real change. **[35:13]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In the story of the storm, what did Jesus directly speak to instead of pleading with God? **[09:55]**
2. Why is it significant that Jesus commanded the dead Lazarus to "come forth" rather than praying for God to raise him? What does this reveal about the power of a direct command spoken from a position of authority? **[33:12]**
3. Speech reveals the heart's condition. **[02:44]** What does your most common conversation—about your health, finances, or family—reveal about what you truly believe is inside your heart?
4. How can you personally apply the fivefold rhythm (hear, believe, rest, speak, act) this week in a specific area where you need wisdom from God? **[42:24]**
5. The centurion understood delegated authority because he operated in it daily. In your spheres of influence (home, work, community), how can you become more aware of the authority you have been given and exercise it through your words?

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."