

## Guard Your Voice

### Everything God does....he does by speaking:

Revelation 21:3 I heard a loud shout/a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice** of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

### 1. GUARD YOUR VOICE FROM MISUSE

**God has given us standards if our voice is to represent Him and bring Him glory.**

Ephesians 4:29 **Don't use foul or abusive language.** Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

29 *"Every word that is corrupt, out of your mouth **let it not** be proceeding, but whatever is good, suitable for the use of edification (building up) with respect to the need, and this, **in order that it may impart grace to those who are hearing.**"*

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, **harsh words, and slander**, as well as **all types of evil behavior.**

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 5:4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.

KJV - <sup>4</sup> Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: **but rather giving of thanks.**

### What you use your voice for is an INDICATOR of your spiritual condition...

.... **both GOOD** ...

1 John 4:<sup>15</sup> All who **declare** that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.

Romans 10:9-10 If you openly **declare** that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

.... **and BAD** ...

Proverbs 8:13 All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and **perverse speech.**

Luke 6:45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **What you say flows from what is in your heart.**

Matthew 12:34 You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart **determines what you say.**

**\* Because we will give an account for every word**

Matthew 12:36 And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle/empty word you speak.

James 3: 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the

same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, **this is not right! 18** And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, **repay evil with blessing**, because to this (to “this” what? to repay evil with blessing) ....to this you were called **so that YOU may inherit a blessing**.

**\* Guard your voice so you don't judge or shame**

James 4:11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters.[a] If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. **12** God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

Psalms 141:3 “Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips”

Psalms 19: 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**2) GUARD YOUR VOICE FROM DISUSE**

**\* Use your voice to declare God's glory....to worship/respond to His greatness:**

Psalms 98:4 **Shout** to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and **sing** for joy!

Psalms 47:1 Come, everyone! Clap your hands! **Shout** to God with joyful praise!

Psalms 100: 1 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. 3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

James 3: 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, **this is not right! 18** And those who are peacemakers will **plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness**.

1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, **repay evil with blessing**, because to **this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing**.

**\* Use your voice in defense of the powerless:**

Proverbs 31:8 **Speak up** for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. (NIV) .Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute

**\* Use your voice to win the lost:**

**Mark 16:15** And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

Luke 24: 47 It (Scripture) was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’

Isaiah 61:1 (NIV) The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me **to proclaim** good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim** freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.....

1 John 1:1 (NIV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we **proclaim** concerning the Word of life.

**\* Use your voice to build up and encourage Christ's church!**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 So **encourage each other** and **build each other up**, just as you are already doing.

Hebrews 3:13 "**Encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

**\* Guard AND USE your voice because We are ambassadors- We SPEAK for Christ**

**John 20:23, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."**

2 Corinthians 5:20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. **We speak** for Christ when **we plead**, "Come back to God!"

**Speak with accuracy and the authority of God's word ONLY**

Colossians 1:28 So we tell others about (proclaim) Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone **with all the wisdom God has given us**. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.

**\* Guard your voice and use it to speak graciously....*imparting grace***

Colossians 4: <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive\* so that you will have the right response for everyone.