

Christ-Expressed Living: Pre-eminent in Our Speech
Colossians 4:5-6; James 3:2-12

Words Are Powerful (Gen 1:3ff) and They Are Precious (Jo 1:14; Matt 12:36)

- **When Christ has the pre-eminence, our words are profitable**
 - ...they manifest the Life within us - I Tim 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; Ps 19:14
- **When Christ has the pre-eminence, our words are appropriate to the moment - Prov 15:23; 25:11-13**
 - ...they are seasoned with wisdom - Col 4:5; Matt 13:54; Ja 3:17
 - ...they are seasoned with grace - Col 4:16; Jo 1:14
- **Wise, gracious words are like "salt" - Col 4:6**
 - ...they penetrate and preserve (for better or for worse) - Prov 18:21
- **Words act like "bits" and "rudders", like "fires" and "beasts" - Ja 3:2-8**
 - ...they can bless or curse - Ja 3:9

The Problem Is Not With the Tongue or Words, But With the Heart - Matt 12:34; 15:18

- **Words point to the object of our faith - Ja 3:11-12**
 - ...When the "fountain" we drink from is Christ, our words are refreshing - Prov 10:11; 25:11
 - ...When the "fountain" we drink from is not Christ, our words are toxic - Eph 4:29
- **The heart filling up on Christ brings forth edifying words - Eph 4:29; Ro 14:19**
 - ...manifesting His desire to build up the other, meet the need of the moment - II Cor 12:19; 13:10
 - ..."good news" words, "liberating" words, "enlightening/healing" words, "uplifting" words - Lk 4:18

Turning It Around: Making Every Word a "Gifft"

- **Give Christ the pre-eminence in your speech - Ps 12:2-4; Col 1:18; 4:6**
 - ...no one controls their tongue but presents it to one "master" or the other - Ja 3:8; Ro 6:13,16
- **Intend to honor Christ with every word - Col 3:17; Ps 19:14; Ro 12:1-2**
 - ...reverenced as gifts of worship to honor God - Ps 45:1
- **Fences and filters - Ps 141:3, Eph 4:27**
 - ...use a "fence" to guard against the habit patterns of our "flesh" - Ga 5:13; ("no put downs"; "only in love", "not I, but Christ")
 - ...apply a scriptural "filter"/grid - Phil 4:8; Ja 3:17
- **Truthfully edify - Eph 4:15,29**
 - ...no flattery - Jude 1:16
 - ...feed others on the edifying Life of Christ in you - Col 1:27; Prov 10:21