



# WASTED WORDS

Week 38 | February 17, 2025

Words matter. **What** we say and **how** we say it has a *tremendous impact* in our lives and those around us. The **children of God** have an even more *incredible ability* to speak literal life into someone's heart as we share with them **the Good News** of Christ and all that He *can and wants to* do for them. By our words we can build up another, **encouraging** the *work of God* in their life, or plant seeds of destruction that will **divide** and **distract** from the *freedom* and *healing* that the Lord has in store. Is it any wonder then that scripture often describes the **importance** of words and the **severity** of *their consequences*? ([Proverbs 10:11](#); [James 3](#); [Matthew 12:36](#))

As one of the **favorite tools** of the Enemy, words have caused *greater destruction* in our families, communities, and churches than virtually any other force around. That's why we must pray against these **attacks** on our language and ask God instead to *filter everything* that is said, especially by His children, using a:

## 1. Muzzle of **LOVE**. ([1 Corinthians 13:1](#))

- a. **NOTE:** The first **filter** that must *cancel* everything that we say is that of love. If the syllables we speak do not convey **God's message** of *love and acceptance* then they have no business leaving our lips. **The lost** in our lives do not need *further exposure* to the evil hatred of this world, they already have enough of that inside of their **hearts** and **heads**. Instead they need consistent exposure to the *love, life, and light* of God that He has chosen to share with this world through His people. In addition, God's children need **consistent reminders** of the love of *their Father*, and who better to do so than their brother or sister? The Enemy **hates** this ability of ours to *spread love* with a simple word, so He aims to **twist** and **manipulate** all that is said to our *detriment* and *destruction*. Thankfully, the love of God in us can, will, and *has overcome every scheme* of the Evil one yesterday, today, and tomorrow! ([1 Cor. 16:14](#); [Jer. 31:3](#); [Rom. 8:31-37](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for **the love** with which *You spoke* into my heart and **changed my life** for *all of eternity*. Please fill us today with that **same love**, *completely covering* all aspects of our being until it overflows into our **every word**. *Filter our tongues*, Father, muzzling our mouths with Your love so that if any **unloving word** should try to escape it would be *trapped and silenced*. Defeat every attempt of the Enemy to **twist** and **manipulate** our speech, *overwhelming* their schemes by the power of Your love in us."
  1. **REMEMBER:** Real love **hates evil** and **treasures good**. ([Romans 12:9](#))

## 2. Bridle of **TRUTH**. ([Ephesians 4:15](#))

- a. **NOTE:** In a world of **half-truths** and clever **deceptions**, what the world needs more of is what many would consider to be "*brutal*" **honesty**. What is more brutal, though, are the **lies** constantly *told* and *believed* that are keeping people in bondage and robbing them

of **the freedom** Christ died for. Remember, our Enemy is the *Father of lies* and by his falsehoods he aims to **steal**, **kill**, and **destroy** all of the *goodness of God* in our lives. Normally targeted at the destruction of relationships, he will often aim to **deceive** a *child of God* then use them to spread this deception. To be **on guard** against these strategies, we must *hold tightly* to the truth in every occasion, internally and externally, asking God to continually **lead us** into *all truth* and to expose the lies for what they are. ([Proverbs 34:12-13](#); [John 8:32](#); [2 Corinthians 11:13-14](#); [John 16:13](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, thank You for **Your truth** that *sets us free* and continually rescues us from the **chains of bondage** that try to *retake their former hold*. **Fill us** with and **cleanse us** by this truth so that nothing we *feel, think*, or say would be tainted by the lies of our **flesh**, this **world**, or **Satan’s forces**. May Your *honesty* and *integrity* lead, guide, and direct every word that is said, keeping us far from all **deceit** and **deception**. Holy Spirit, lead us deeper *into all truth* and bridle our tongue by it, so that should we attempt to say anything **dishonestly** it would *remain stuck* in our mouths.”

1. **REMEMBER:** The **truth** is ALWAYS better. ([2 Corinthians 13:8](#))

### 3. Guard of **DISCERNMENT**. ([Proverbs 18:20](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Just because something comes from a **heart of love** and contains *nothing but truth* does not mean that it is always the right thing to say. **Timing** and **presentation** matter, saying *the right thing*, at *the right time*, and in *the right way*. As wonderfully complex as human beings are, this can be a difficult feat to accomplish on our best days without any sort of **outside interference**. Unfortunately, though, we live in a world of *constant interference* by our Enemy whose goal is to take this amazingly **loving truth** that can *set us free* and twist it to cause additional **damage** and **harm**. To prevent this from happening and to allow for the *effective delivery* of God’s good word, we must pray for a **guard of discernment** to watch over our lips to prevent *any idle word* from slipping by at the wrong time or in the wrong way. ([James 1:26](#); [Prov. 15:28](#); [Prov. 5:2](#))
- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for giving **wisdom** to the *foolish* and **knowledge** to the *ignorant*. Please grant to us today the ability to know not only what to say, but **when** and **how** to say *it well*. Teach us to watch our words carefully, exercising **discernment** so that we might limit *the enemy’s ability* to harm others. Guard our every word, keeping us from saying anything that is not **necessary** to the *growth* and *advancement* of Your kingdom and domain.

1. **REMEMBER:** A **poorly timed** word can sting almost as badly as a *hateful lie*. ([Proverbs 15:23](#))

### Questions for Reflection:

- What do **your words** reveal about *the love* in your heart?
  - As God to **remove** anything *blocking* or *diverting* His love in You from being expressed.
- Do you ever **excuse** a *small lie* or *partial truth* that was said with “pure” motives?
  - Much like a **deadly cancer**, lies never *stay small*. Deal with them early and often to prevent the spread.
- How often do you **mean well** and speak *the truth* but end up saying the wrong thing anyway?
  - Ask for *wisdom, discernment*, and *shrewdness* and **practice pausing** before speaking.