

Introduction: The power of spoken words

A word you speak is more _____ than a thought you think.

The vision of dry bones

¹ The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. ² He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. ³ Then He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?"

"O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "You alone know the answer to that."

⁴ Then He said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! ⁶ I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I spoke this message, just as He told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. ⁸ Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

⁹ Then He said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'"

¹⁰ So I spoke the message as He commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Words create worlds

- God creates with words in Genesis 1
- Jesus raises the dead with words in the Gospels
- Jesus defeats temptation by speaking scripture

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

Proverbs 18:21

The words of the reckless pierce like swords,

Proverbs 12:18a

Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of Reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.

Matthew 12:36-37

The neuroscience of speaking out loud

- Embodied reinforcement: venting and complaining don't release feelings; they train your brain to look for evidence to back up your complaints.
- The garden of words parable: Words are seeds that grow either flowers or weeds.

Speaking God's Word

¹⁰ "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. ¹¹ It is the same with My word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

The rhythm of Ezekiel

You _____ to what God says. You _____
what God says. You _____ what God does.

Biblical faith vs. Word of faith

Word of faith says I can speak my will into reality. Biblical faith says, 'I will speak
_____ over my reality.'

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think speaking truth out loud feels uncomfortable sometimes, and how can we get better at it?
2. Our culture often tells us that "venting" is healthy, but neuroscience and the "Garden of Words" parable show that it actually reinforces negativity and grows weeds in our minds. How have you seen the fruit of complaining versus the fruit of gratitude play out in your own life?
3. Biblical faith is speaking *God's will* over our reality. What is a specific, "dead or dry" area in your life right now where you need to start boldly prophesying God's promises?
4. Has someone ever spoken a "word of life" over you? Who is someone you can speak life into this week?