

A Word in Season  
(Isaiah 50:4; Prov. 15:23; 25:11)



A word fitly spoken and in due season is like apples of gold in settings of silver (Prov. 25: 11). A word fitly spoken and in due season is music to one's ear. It encourages and lifts one up in time of emotional and physical needs. Blessed is the person who knows how to bless others with fitly spoken words. Job's so called friends caused him great pain with their unfit spoken words. In his frustration he asked them, How long will you vex and torment me and break me in pieces with words? Have pity on me, have pity on me, O my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! (Job 19: 1, 21) Job's friends had come to him when they heard about his misfortune. They came from different regions to comfort their friend, Job. They had good intentions and were sincerely sorry for Job's situation, as we read in Job 2:12-13: And when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz, the Temanite. (As a Temanite, he was from an ancient city or town called Teman, a region in Edom. He was an Edomite, descendant from Esau); and Bildad the Shuhite (was a descendant of Shuah, son of Abraham and Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2). This was a region on the western side of Chaldea, bordering on Arabia), and Zophar the Naamathite ( was from Naamah, in Canaan). They all traveled as much as 250 miles to visit Job. Some place Job's location near the borders of Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. They had made an appointment together to come to console with him and to comfort him, and when they looked from afar off and saw him beyond recognition, they lifted up their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe, and they cast dust over their heads toward the heavens. So they sat down with (Job) on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief and pain were very great (Job 2:12-13). This, without a doubt, seemed to be a picture of true friends, as we read how they reacted to Job's ordeal.

While they spoke no words, they could feel and see the pain of Job's sufferings and suffered with him. But the moment they opened their mouth, their eyes and ears were shut to the truth of his needs. Accusations then became the theme of their words; they no longer could comfort Job and they became more like a thorn in Job's emotions. They did not offer Job words that were fitly spoken in the season to console Job in his suffering, for "A word fitly spoken and in due season" is a word of comfort, encouragement, it is a word that brings hope, word that edifies. When we do not know what to say in view of one's great suffering, it is best to apply silence and offer a hug mingled with tears. Tears are liquid words, as someone has said. They express emotions that words cannot and they become like "apples of gold in settings of silver". Because the tongue is the organ used to express words, it must be gentle toward the one in need, in order to bring healing to the heart. Salomon said, "A gentle tongue is a tree of life" (Prov. 15: 4). From that gentle tongue comes healing and peace. The tongue carries the power of death and life (Prov. 18:21). Many have killed themselves as the weapon of words pierced their souls. It affects the entire body, as a destructive fire. James so defined it: And the tongue is a fire, a world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth, being itself ignited by hell; for every kind of beast and bird of reptile and sea animal, can be tamed and has been tamed by human; but the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison, with it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God's likeness! (James 3:6-10). The power of words comes from the tongue. King David prayed, I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress (Psalm 17: 3). Transgression is a word that defines overstepping or going beyond the boundaries. When we apply words that hurt someone, we overstep the boundaries of freedom against one another. When freedom is one-sided, the other person suffers. We must direct our thoughts and our mouth to speak words that are fitly and in due season as the Psalmist said, I will take heed and guard my ways, that I may sin not with my tongue (Psalm 39:1a). I will be careful to guard my ways in the direction my tongue moves not to sin against my God and my neighbor. The tongue that is controlled is the tongue that edifies and builds and encourages lives and is also the tongue that will praise YAHWEH in sincerity of heart. The world is full of people waiting for words that are fitly spoken in due time. Know how to speak a word of comfort to the weary and hopeless; let your tongue move in the direction of peace and love, no matter what the circumstances. Let not your words condemn you. YAHSHUA said that by our words we will be either justified or condemned. Words are thoughts expressed in sounds that come from the heart. YAHSHUA asked the question, How can you speak good things when you are evil? For out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matt. 12: 34-37). Words are also pictures of what is inside our heart. To the hurting soul speak words to lift him out of his pain. Deliver him from oppression and depression even if he has committed sin. Do it without the pointing of your fingers through your mouth, because no one is without sin. "Love covers a multitude of sins". How beautiful is the mouth of those who speak words that are fitted for the time and circumstances, rescuing those who are hurting and building bridges of love and peace! Paul's desire was that we would rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Living in harmony with one another is to share in one's pain.

And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord YAHSHUA and His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him (Col. 3:17). Our deeds are merely seeds from our heart. If good, we will reflect God's love through kind and aptly words; if bad, we will reflect the evil residing in our heart, as Solomon well defined: The thoughts of the wicked are shamefully vile and exceedingly offensive to the Lord, but the words of the pure are pleasing words to Him (Prov. 15: 26). In a multitude of words, says Solomon, transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent; the tongues of those who are upright and in right standing with God are as a choice silver; the lips of the righteous feed and guide many (Prov. 10: 19a- 21). Empty words are idle words. YAHSHUA had this to say, But I tell you, on the day of judgment men will have to give account for every idle word they speak; for by your words you will be justified and acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned and sentenced (Matt. 12:36- 37). So let our words be few and righteous before God and men; pray as David prayed, Lord set a guard before my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips ( Psalm 141:3).

**THINK ABOUT IT!**