

## When Talk Is Not Cheap

Talking is the best way of communicating. After the flood, when men spoke one language, they planned to build a city and the Babel Tower to reach the sky for the purpose not to be scattered, except that the idea was not God's plan for the human race. They said to each other, "Come, let us make oven-fired bricks"... and they said, "Come let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky; let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth". The Lord said, Come, let Us go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth and they stopped building the city (Gen. 11). God's plan was for them was to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Gen. 9:1).

Written words are symbols communicating feelings, information, warning, etc. We who fear the Lord and revere His name have the responsibility to talk to one another righteously, favoring the Lord's words. He will take notice with favor, as we read in Malachi 3:16-17: "At that time those who feared the Lord spoke to one another. The Lord took notice and listened; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared YAHWEH and had high regard for His name; they will be mine, says the Lord of Hosts, a special possession on the day I am preparing. I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him". These are promises to live by in faithfulness to God. Paul said, Let the Word of Christ dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God (Col. 3:16). The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Wise is the person who fears and reveres the name of the Lord. YAHSHUA said, out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. When the heart is pure before YAHWEH the words that come from the mouth will be pure and pleasing to him (Prov. 5:26). It is very important for us to guard our mouth from evil talks. In whatever we do – in word or deed should be for the glory of the name of the Lord. The psalmist's prayer in Psalm 19: 14 is that the words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart be acceptable to the Lord. Many times our mouth needs a bridle to control the words that come out of our heart. The heart that is in love with God's heart will utter words only that are pleasing to Him.

Job was victim of his friends' words in his time of need. At the end of his ordeal, God showed displeasure to Job's friends and said, My wrath is kindled against you (Eliphaz the Temanite) and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has (Job 42:7). The heart of David was right when he said, I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress (Psalm 17:3b). The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks with justice (Psalm 37:39); I will take heed and guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will muzzle my mouth as with a bridle while the wicked are before me (Ps. 39:1). The mouth that speaks words to bless and comfort others will in time be blessed and comforted, because that pleases the Lord; the believer in Christ should be free from filthy language, free from lies, slanders, for he is His representative; he is His new creation, created to glorify Him; he must put on the new man, to be renewed in the knowledge of the image of God. "Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,

gentleness, and patience, accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must forgive. Above all, put on love- the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful.” (Col. 3: 12-14) To love God is to keep our mouth from talking cheaply. When we utter words of love to others, the sound waves that come from them is heard and received by our Lord; He will consider with favor those who are faithful and true to Him through their clean lips.

The Spirit filled believer represents Him through the words that convey love and submission to one another; never taking the place of superiority over others, but humbling oneself one to another; making music with thanksgiving to God. This good representation comes from a heart filled with joy and understanding of the will of God and His word. There should never be room in the heart of the believer for cheap talk. This action is a misrepresentation of whose he is and of what is expected of him. The heart of our Lord is close to those who honor His name, and of those who revere and fear Him. As Malachi said, “A book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared YAHWEH and had high regard for His name”. And this applies to us today, if we do the same.

Our former way of living must be crucified in order to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. As a new creation in Christ we are sanctified through His word and the work of the Holy Spirit. Our behavior by words and deeds should represent YAHSHUA’S teaching. No rotten talk should come from your mouth, said Paul, but only what is good for the building up of someone in need, in order to give grace to those who hear. And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit, who sealed you for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:29-30). So let your light shine through your words with a pure heart and the fear of the Lord and that will bring glory to our heavenly Father. He will listen and will be pleased with you. It is good to be remembered for a life of faith and obedience to YAHWEH!

**THINK ABOUT IT!**