

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.10.13

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehard

Title: Micah 6

Recording:



**Do Justice,
Love Mercy,
Walk Humbly**
-Micah 6:8

Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Psalm 19

Recording:



The law of the LORD is
perfect, converting the
soul: the testimony of the
LORD is sure, making
wise the simple.

—Psalm 19:7

The Power of Words, 10/13/2025 By Patrick Hite

While it might be cliché to say so in our modern world, it remains true that words have power. We see this in various forms in the secular world, but for the Christian this truth should be even more apparent. From the very beginning we see that God made the world and all that was in it with words (Genesis 1). In the book of Leviticus, God spoke to Moses and gave him the words of the Law so that the children of Israel knew what was required of them to be obedient to the Lord. All throughout the history of Israel, God spoke to the prophets and His words were shared with the people to pronounce judgement and deliverance(). In the time of the New Testament, Jesus, like His Father, showed Himself to be God in the miracles He performed, and in many cases He did so with words. When healing those who were sick or raising the dead, He would say things like, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well" (Luke 18:42), or, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk", and "Young man, I say to you, arise" (Luke 7:14). He calmed the storm simply by saying, "Peace be still!" (Mark 4:39).

Through the words recorded for us in the Bible, we now have everything that we need to know in order to please God and have eternal life (II Peter 1:2-4). While our words don't have the power to rebuke a storm or raise the dead, there is power in our words. Words can be used to edify and lift people up. With words we can both request and accept forgiveness. Words can be used to help others more fully understand the truth of God's word. Words are even a major part of our worship to the Lord. When we pray we are expressing in words our gratitude and our needs to the Lord. When we are gathered together to sing, we are raising up words to God and communicating to Him and to one another. When men get up to preach the word, they are proclaiming and communicating a lesson from the word of God to us. When the word of God is shared with others, we are planting seeds in people's hearts, and from those seeds some will come to the Lord for salvation. Our words are even part of being saved. In Romans 10:10 Paul states, "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation". The confession of Christ before others is a requirement for us if we want to be saved (Romans 10:9).

Indeed our words have the power to do good. But as much as words have the power to do good, words have the power to do evil. It was the deceitful and cunning words of the serpent that enticed mankind to sin (Genesis 3:1-5). It was the words of false witnesses (Mark 14:55-56), the angry demands of a mob (Luke 23:20-23), and a statement of resignation from Pilate (Matthew 27:24) that brought Jesus to the cross. It is the destructive heresies of false teachers that lead so many people away from the Lord and into destruction (II Peter 2:1-3). Like all of these, our words have the power to do evil. With divisive, self-seeking words we can cause discord among the brethren. With harsh and impulsive words we can wound those we love. With deceitful words we break trust and lead others astray. With gossiping words we ruin people's reputation. With loveless words, the truth is made of no effect. Solomon tells us that "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit" (Proverbs 18:21), and James writes that, "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so" (James 3:10).

Our words have the power to do great good, and terrible evil. But truly brethren, it ought not to be so. The words of a Christian should always be words that are going to be a blessing and build up. Let us be slow to speak, and give consideration to our words, that they might be of benefit to the hearer. That they might bring a blessing, not a cursing. Life, and not death.