**Hitting the Target**

Someone said, “words will never hurt me.” But you learn that words do hurt. Words can break and mutilate you. The words you speak to yourself and others can have a lasting effect on your life – good or bad. Words can heal and encourage by lifting others above their situations or circumstances. Words can give hope. And God’s Word or a word of prayer can dispatch angels to the rescue.

Whether intended or not, words have a purpose and a target. That target can be random like a misguided bullet, or deliberate like aiming an arrow at a bullseye. Words have a sound and a tone. The sound can be noise like clanging cymbals, or a sweet and soothing sound that calms the mind, heart, and spirit. Words can bring tears to your eyes and put a smile on your face. Words can also bring laughter and start wars. Do you consider the purpose and the target of your words?

 “Our words are powerful. They impact others, but they also impact us.” (Michael Hyatt.) Proverbs 11:9 says, “With their words, the godless destroy their friends” (NLT); and Proverbs 15:4 says, “Gentle words cause life and health” (TBL). Many know Proverbs 18:21, which says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (NKJV.) And in the book of James verse 1:19, it says “. . . be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” (NKJV.) Words come from the heart and start with a thought. What is your heart saying?

According to Proverbs 18:4, words can be life-giving water and a refreshing stream. If your heart is pure and full of love – God’s love – this can easily describe your words. The great commandment is to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Matthew 22:37-39.) Love will flow from your mouth, if love is in your heart.

We hear words every day and in every walk of life. Most words are not very pleasant or encouraging. The news is always full of gloom and doom. Why not listen to and speak words of life? When you hear negative words, find words to turn them around to positive. Record yourself speaking positive words, so you can hear your frequency. You are the salt and light of the world. You should also be a pleasant and sweet sound in the world.

In Daniel 10, you read about Daniel’s mournful prayer (words) having a target. In response, God dispatched angels with an answer. Praying God’s Word, and targeting God’s heart with your requests, will sound the alarm and hit a bullseye in heaven. Like Daniel, pray sincerely for answers, guidance, resources, and everything. God’s answer may be delayed, but He will answer prayer. God’s answers are always on time.

Be sure that your words have the right target every time.



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