

# SIMPLICITY & GENEROSITY



SPIRITUAL FORMATION SERIES

**WORDS CREATE WORLDS**

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

**Proverbs 18:21**



**All the unhappiness of men arises from one single fact, that they cannot stay quietly in their own room.**

**Blaise Pascal**

**Context**

**The opposite of simplicity isn't just complexity - it's duplicity, insincerity, and manipulation**

**What is Simplicity of Speech?**

# **Fewness & Fullness of Words**



**Words that are few in number but deep in fullness  
rise up from a heart that has examined and distilled  
its motives and given up trying to push itself  
forward or win over others.**

**Jan Johnson**

**Jesus & fullness of words**

**They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth.**

**Luke 4:22**

**A word spoken at the right time is like gold apples  
on a silver tray.**

**Proverbs 25:11**

**Jesus & fewness of words**

**As soon as it was morning, the chief priests had a meeting with the elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin. After tying Jesus up, they led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate. So Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You have said it." And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many things. Then Pilate questioned Him again, "Are You not answering anything? Look how many things they are accusing You of!" But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.**

**Mark 15:1-5**



**Here is my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not argue or shout, and no one will hear his voice in the streets.**

**Matthew 12:18-19**

**WORDS REVEAL OUR  
INNER WORLDS**

**Simplicity of speech flows from a heart that has bonded  
with the heart of Jesus: compassionate and truthful,  
loving and good.**

**Jan Johnson**

**A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.**

**Luke 6:45**

**We praise our Lord and Father with it, and we curse men who are made in God's likeness with it. Praising and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers, these things should not be this way. Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.**

**James 3:9-12**

**How do we cultivate  
simplicity of speech?**



**My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.**

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 13**

**Speak Less**

**There is an occasion for everything...a time to be silent and a time to speak...Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few...For many dreams bring futility, so do many words. Therefore, fear God.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:7; 5:2, 7**

**Less Speaking = Less Sin**

**Silence Guards the Inner Fire**

**Silence is a form of hospitality**



**Silence strengthens our  
speaking**

**We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

# **Speech Therapy**

**Speaking the truth instead of  
lying**

**Asking instead of condemning**

**We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



**Confessing Instead of Blaming**

**Building up instead of tearing down**

**No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.**

**Ephesians 4:29**

**Blessing instead of cursing**

**My dear brothers & sisters, understand this:  
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak,  
and slow to anger.**

**James 1:19**

**Drawing out instead of drowning out**

**Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them with their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces. "Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.**

**Matthew 7:1-5**

**This week: Situational Silence**