

**Winsome Words:
Why Your Words Matter**

Your words matter to God; they matter to people; they need to matter to you.

James 3:2 tells us that we all stumble with the use of our words. None of us is perfect. There is good news in the gospel for those of us who have struggled to be more winsome with our words.

1. Jesus has spoken every word perfectly on your behalf. Every word Jesus ever spoke, He spoke perfectly. Jesus did that for you.
2. Jesus has exchanged your sinful words for His perfect words. When God looks into your account, He sees the perfect words of Jesus. That's the gospel.

In terms of salvation, your words are a nonissue. You are redeemed. Your words cannot get you into heaven nor keep you out of heaven. God will see you safely all the way home.

In terms of holiness, your words matter, and you need to give attention to your words. Part of the redemptive story in your life is a ***restoration of the image of God words*** that you were designed to speak. Your words matter because they can demonstrate God's redeeming work in your life.

Key Scriptures:

Proverbs 18:21

James 3:4-5

Ephesians 4:29

Psalms 19:1-4

Colossians 3:12-14

Colossians 4:5-6

Good news: The gospel comes with power for life transformation. My summary of the gospel is simply this: *Life transformation through Jesus*. The transforming power of Jesus CAN BE readily seen in your words.

You CAN pursue holiness because you have been made alive in Christ. You have a new life with the possibility of a new quality of words.

Points to Ponder

- Do your words honor God of the Bible who is Lord over your words?
- Do your words trend toward being helpful to people or are they sometimes hurtful?