

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## The Guard Over Your Mouth April 14, 2020 Suzi Armstrong

A strange but now common sight when we go outside of our homes is to see that most people are wearing face masks that cover the mouth and nose. As I was looking at a picture of some family members that had their face mask on I clearly heard the Lord say, "Recognize that I have put a guard over your mouth. Carefully consider the words you speak in this hour. For the words you speak will build your house that you will live in. So craft your words carefully by My Spirit, and that will simultaneously align the attitudes and desires of your heart to My heart."

There is power in the words that we speak. The Lord tells Jeremiah that the words that He puts in his mouth have the power to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. Power is defined as the ability to influence behavior or the course of events.

God has put a guard over our mouths. **The guard over our mouth is the fear of the Lord.**

He is saying watch and protect what we speak – weigh the influence and impact of our words. Craft our words carefully through Holy Spirit who is in us. Recognize that He has put a guard over our mouths. Our words have influence. Our words have the capacity to affect atmospheres and behavior, perceptions and expectations, desires and emotions.

I have heard continual media narratives telling me how to think about and process what is today's world. I hear projections based upon models that predict. I hear fake news. I hear conspiracy theories and political wrangling, and I am worn out listening to it all. What I see being built by the words coming from the mind and flesh is a box that has severe limitations. It is rooted in fear and self-preservation. There is no overcoming. There is no eternal perspective. There is no seeking God. **I will not let these words shape my future. NO!!**

We as the Body of Christ are set apart from this world system. Our minds are renewed by the washing of the water of the word of God. We have eternity set in our hearts. We turn our faces to God and set our minds on things above. We partner with God for His kingdom to come and His will be done. **We speak God's words with kingdom authority.** God's kingdom will be established through us by the power of Holy Spirit. There are a remnant people of God that will rise up and they will hear God's plan for our city and nation. A plan that says the glory of the Lord will cover our city and nation as the waters cover the sea. God has a plan that is filled with hope and a future. The harvest is ripe and ready; speak the gospel message to the people. Testify to who God is. We will not postpone the promises of God any longer. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed us to speak the words of God in the fear of the Lord with power and authority, words that build – not words of presumption or self interest.

### 2 Corinthians 7.1 NIV

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**

- Let me cleanse myself in the fear of the Lord.
- Holy Spirit is the voice of influence in my life.
- Holy Spirit will lead me into all truth and tell me what is to come.
- Holy Spirit will give me the language to speak.

### 1 Peter 1.13-16 NIV

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, **prepare your minds for action: be self-controlled;** set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, **do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.** <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so **be holy in all you do;** <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

### 1 Peter 2.1, 9 NIV

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, **rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, **that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

### Psalm 141.3 NIV

<sup>3</sup> **Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.**

- The fear of the Lord is the guard over our mouths.
- What is spoken in the fear of the Lord has been filtered.

### John 14.10 TPT

<sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that the Father is living in me and that I am living in the Father? **Even my words are not my own but come from my Father,** for he lives in me and performs his miracles of power through me.

### 1 Corinthians 2.3-8 TPT

<sup>3</sup> **I stood before you feeling inadequate, filled with reverence for God, and trembling under the sense of the importance of my words.** <sup>4</sup> The message I preached and how I preached it was **not an attempt to sway you with persuasive arguments** but to prove to you the almighty power of God's Holy Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For God intended that your faith not be established on man's wisdom but by trusting in his almighty power.

<sup>6</sup> However, there is a wisdom that we continually speak of when we are among the spiritually mature. It's wisdom that didn't originate in this present age, nor did it come from the rulers of this age who are in the process of being dethroned. <sup>7</sup> Instead, **we continually speak of this wonderful wisdom that comes from God,** hidden before now in a mystery. It is his secret plan, destined before the ages, *to bring us into glory.* <sup>8</sup> **None of the rulers of this present world order understood it,** for if they had, they never would have crucified the Lord of shining glory.

- Note Paul's pattern for speaking.
  - He was not speaking of his own volition, his own opinions or conclusions through his own thinking.
  - He was speaking through the fear of the Lord which was a guard over his mouth.
  - To live in the fear of the Lord is to live in the deepest of awe and respect of the Lord. Honoring Him. Recognizing and yielding to His sovereignty.
  - You are equipped, filled and covered in the awe of His presence and beauty.
  - Paul is not exerting his own influence through argument and debate.
  - Paul is not speaking words from his own or other men's opinions – not speaking from experiences in the past.
  - Paul is speaking what God is speaking – following the pattern of Jesus.
  - Paul is not expecting those positioned in the present world system to understand the words He speaks.

Lord we humble ourselves before you in the fear of the Lord. We are astounded and amazed by Your very presence. The nations are Yours. The times are Yours. We tremble under the sense of the importance of our words we speak – the words of God over our city and nation. To Detroit we say, lift up your head and open your gates for the King of Glory stands at the door ready to enter. Detroit, say to the King of Glory, "Come in, You are welcome in this place." Who is this King of Glory? The Lord Almighty He is the King of Glory.

To Detroit we declare, be restored to your original call and purpose, return to truth. Detroit you will proclaim liberty to the nations. For where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. These are days of transformation. These are days of a great return to spiritual truth. Turn your face to the Lord and Stand in awe of who He is. Open your eyes Detroit and see the hand of the Lord is on you. Fix your eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen.