**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr August 07, 2022**

**Using Our Words Wisely**

Proverbs 18:20-21

**Key Truth:** As Christians we should use our words in ways that bring glory to God rather than shame to ourselves and pain to others.

**The Impact Of Our Words:**

1. Words have a way of penetrating our very soul.

 **Proverbs 15:4, Proverbs 16:24**

2. Our words can ignite conflict or stifle conflict.

 **Proverbs 15:1-2**

3. Words can lead us on a path of destruction and chaos.

 **Proverbs 21:23, Proverbs 29:20, James 3:5-6**

**The Heart Of The Matter:**

1. Our words reveal the condition of our heart. **Luke 6:45**

2. Our words reveal our spiritual maturity. **James 1:26**

**How To Tame The Tongue:**

1. Think and listen before you speak. **James 1:19-21**

2. Allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify your heart and mind.

 **Psalms 19:14**

3. Exercise your right to remain silent. **Matthew 12:36-37**

4. Choose to build others up rather than tear down others.

 **Ephesians 4:29-32**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Allow the Holy Spirit to teach us and lead us to exhibit His fruit in our lives, especially in the ways that we use our words.

**Food For Thought**

Since Proverbs has 31 chapters, a practical way to do this is to daily read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

What applies to me today?

Where have I seen this in others?

Where have I experienced this?

Options To Maximize Your Reading Of Proverbs:

* Pick a Time - If we want to make something happen, we usually need to set a time when it will actually happen. Consider your options.
* Mark it Up - Have a pen in hand to jot down notes and underline those verses that catch your attention. It will be encouraging to look back at what you wrote after you’ve done this over time.
* Write Down Your Thoughts - Get a notebook and write down anytime you have a response to one of the three questions above.

As you do this from day to day, know that you will be storing up for yourself insight on how to handle life as God would want you to, as well as helping others to live out the wisdom and love of God in your life.