



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Romans 12:3; James 1:17
- 1 Tim. 6:6-7; Ephesians 4:29

SURRENDER MY SELF

- Surrender Comparisons
- Practice Celebration

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“...God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith.”
Romans 12:3 WEBUS

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” James 1:17 WEBUS

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can’t carry anything out.”
1 Timothy 6:6-7 WEBUS

“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for **building others up** as the need may be, **that it may give grace to those who hear.**” Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS

“If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God...” 1 Peter 4:11 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your comparisons to others and practice celebrating them instead.

Pray this without ceasing: "Father, help me no longer limit my contentment to or base my satisfaction on correlating my life with others. I have no further need for equity, equivalence, or even superiority. I will avoid needless commentaries or reporting about others. Instead, I will enjoy the success of others and honor them with words of life for their accomplishments." Y'shua said, "The words that I speak to you are Spirit and life." Whoever won't surrender their need to compare themselves with others and instead practice celebrating them simply won't become like Him. Bless someone today with words of life.

SURRENDER THAT ANYTHING IS ABOUT ME!

1. **Surrender My Self: Surrender Comparisons and Practice Celebration**

A. **Surrender Comparisons**

(1) **Introduction:** Surrender comparing myself to others!

(a) **Surrender Comparisons:** Do not limit your contentment to or base your satisfaction on correlating your life with others. Have no further need for equity, equivalence, or even superiority. Do not covet what others have or what they've accomplished. Avoid gossip and slander, and needless commentaries or reporting about others.

1. "For I say through the grace that was given me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think;** but to think reasonably, as **God has apportioned to each person** a measure of faith." Romans 12:3 WEBUS

a) Do you...

- 1) ...compare yourself to others?
- 2) ...limit your contentment to how your life stacks up against others?
- 3) ...base your satisfaction on seeing what others have in their lives and matching up what you have?
- 4) ...have the need for equity, equivalence, or even superiority?
- 5) ...covet what others have or what they've accomplished?

- 6) ...gossip and slander, and make needless commentaries or reports about others?
- 2. **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,** coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.” James 1:17

WEBUS

- a) You should never feel bad about what you don't have because someone else does have!
 - 1) You are not better nor worse than others.
 - 2) What you have that is good is from God, and what they have that is good is from God!

(2) Contentment

- (a) Is your contentment based on correlating your life with others?

- 1. **“But godliness with contentment is great gain.** For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out.” 1 Timothy 6:6-7 WEBUS

- a) To be godly means to seek and desire to be in God's will in every facet of life.

- 1) *“For bodily exercise has some value, but **godliness has value in all things**, having the promise of the life which is now and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8 WEBUS*

b) True contentment is achieved simply by seeking and desiring to please God; it is never found in the outcome—but always in the pursuit.

1) *“Not that I speak because of lack, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it.**”* Philippians 4:11 WEBUS

2) *“**But having food and clothing, we will be content** with that. But **those who are determined to be rich fall into a temptation, a snare, and many foolish and harmful lusts, such as drown men in ruin and destruction.**”* 1

Timothy 6:8-9 WEBUS

3) *“**Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have,** for he has said, “I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.””* Hebrews 13:5 WEBUS

(b) There is nothing of this world that can bring true contentment!

1. *“**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** But if I live on in the flesh, this will bring fruit from my work; yet I don’t know what I will choose.”* Philippians 1:21-22 WEBUS

- a) The only way to get ahead in life as a Christian is to live for Christ.

(3) Satisfaction

- (a) Is your satisfaction based on correlating your life with others?

- 1. **“But I am hard pressed between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Yet to remain in the flesh is more needful for your sake.** Having this confidence, I know that I will remain, yes, **and remain with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, that your boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me** through my presence with you again. **Only let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ**, that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your state, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the Good News;” Philippians 1:23-27

WEBUS

- a) Paul was convinced that this world could never again provide anything to satisfy him, and that he would rather not have even lived in it any longer.
- b) His reason to live was that others needed him to grow in the faith and to see Christ’s will in action.

- c) The only true satisfaction in this life: ***“Let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ.”***
- (b) True satisfaction is available only when you...
 - 1. “Also **delight** yourself in Yahweh, and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to Yahweh. **Trust** also in him, and he will do this:”
Psalms 37:4-5 WEBUS
 - a) **You delight in Yahweh:** when your desires (will) align with God’s desires (will).
 - b) **You commit to Yahweh:** when your priority is to obey God’s voice (commands).
 - c) **Trust in Yahweh:** when you fully submit that you can not do anything successfully on your own.
 - 1) Do you recognize the only **True Source** in your quest to feel fulfilled (satisfied)?
 - 2) ***“Satisfy us in the morning with your loving kindness, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”*** Psalms 90:14 WEBUS
 - 3) The only true source of satisfaction: *Yah’s-way not Your-way!*
- (c) If your feeling of satisfaction depends on your opinion of yourself, you will ultimately be very dissatisfied!

1. “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For **if a man thinks himself to be something** when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **But let each man examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast in himself, and not in someone else.**

For each man will bear his own burden.” Galatians 6:2-5 WEBUS

- a) If you think you are “all that”, you are actually none of that!
- b) And if you are looking at others who come across like they are “all that”, they are none of that!
- c) The only thing on which to draw true satisfaction is what God is doing in you and for what God made you.

- 1) *“Let them praise Yahweh for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! For **he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good.**”* Psalms 107:8-9

WEBUS

- 2) *I will give thanks to you, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made.** Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well.”* Psalms 139:14

WEBUS

(4) Equity

(a) Do you feel the need for equity?

1. “Let them sing before Yahweh, for he comes to judge the earth. **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**” Psalms 98:9 WEBUS

a) Equity: The quality of being fair and just, especially in a way that takes account of and seeks to address existing inequalities.

- 1) Relax: Yahweh is the righteous judge. No one is getting away with anything.

b) No time here for the whole thing, but do read Psalm 37 on your own...

- 1) *“Don’t fret because of evildoers, neither be envious against those who work unrighteousness. **For they shall soon be cut down** like the grass, and wither like the green herb. {7} Rest in Yahweh, and wait patiently for him. **Don’t fret because of him who prospers in his way**, because of the man who makes wicked plots happen. {9} For **evildoers shall be cut off**, but those who wait for Yahweh shall inherit the land.”* Psalms 37:1-2, 7, 9 WEBUS

c) Yahweh is no respecter of persons... all are treated the same!

1) *“For Yahweh your God, he is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, the mighty, and the awesome, who **doesn’t respect persons** or take bribes. **He executes justice** for the fatherless and widow and loves the foreigner in giving him food and clothing.”* Deuteronomy 10:17-18 WEBUS

(5) Equivalence

(a) Do you feel the need for equivalence?

1. “The rich and the poor have this in common: **Yahweh is the maker of them all.**” Proverbs 22:2 WEBUS

a) Equivalence: The condition of being equal or equivalent in value, worth, function, etc.

1) Relax: Yahweh provides everything you need. If you don’t have it, you don’t need it!

b) *“He doesn’t respect the persons of **princes, nor respect the rich more than the poor, for they all are the work of his hands.**”* Job 34:19 WEBUS

1) Relax: anything that anyone has and anyone who anyone is was made by the SAME GOD!

c) *“But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. **For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.**”* Matthew 5:44-45 WEBUS

1) Relax: everyone has the same opportunity once you understand that the opportunities you have are the ones Yahweh wants you to have!

(6) Superiority

(a) Do you feel the need for superiority?

1. **“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled,** and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:12 WEBUS

a) Superiority: The state of feeling superior; a supercilious manner or attitude. Having or showing an overly high opinion of oneself.

b) Supercilious: Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others.

1) Relax: you can now stop trying to appear better than others. Start by stopping talking about yourself!

(b) In fact, the Christian who desires to be like Christ (that's a novel idea) should desire the exact opposite of trying to become superior to others!

1. "doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, **each counting others better than himself;**" Philippians 2:3 WEBUS

a) Here is an easy exercise to get you started on the right path (and off the path of your constant need to appear superior to others).

b) **Note to self:** You have NOTHING you did not receive from God, thus you have NOTHING to brag about!

1) *"Now these things, brothers, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to think beyond the things which are written, **that none of you be puffed up against one another. For who makes you different? And what do you have that you didn't receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?**"*

1 Corinthians 4:6-7 WEBUS

c) **Second note to self:** False humility will not cut it. Not taking credit as if you are giving all the glory

to God, while you simultaneously draw attention to yourself, is the worse type of self presentation. It attempts to slip self aggrandizement in the back door with pretentious showy demonstrations of appreciation for God. If you don't know what this looks like, just think of famous athletes and entertainers who point to the sky while being celebrated by men like they themselves are gods!

(7) Covetousness, Envy, & Jealousy

(a) Thou shalt not covet!

1. **““You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.””**

Exodus 20:17 WEBUS

a) Covetousness is the offspring of jealousy.

- 1) **The highest expression** of this is when you are so jealous that you not only want what belongs to someone else, but you also reason that they don't deserve it themselves anyway, even to the point of lying about the them to justify your feelings.

b) This is the ugliness of COVETOUSNESS!

1) “What I’ve been given is not enough. I want to take what’s yours if you won’t just give it to me. If needed, I will even accuse you that you claim to have obtained what you have by your own righteous actions, proving you don’t deserve it in the first place, but instead that I deserve it.”

c) Yahweh’s Heart on Covetousness:

1) *“One of the multitude said to him, “Teacher, **tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.**” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” He said to them, **“Beware! Keep yourselves from covetousness, for a man’s life doesn’t consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses.”**”* Luke 12:13-15 WEBUS

(b) Get out the envy and jealousy!

1. “If we live by the Spirit, let’s also walk by the Spirit.

Let’s not become conceited, provoking one another, and envying one another.” Galatians 5:25-26 WEBUS

a) **Envy:** A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else’s possessions, qualities or good fortune; a desire to have a quality, possession, or other desirable attribute belonging

to someone else, while also disdaining the idea that they have it, wishing they didn't, and wishing you did instead.

1) *"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, **envying one another.**"* Galatians 5:26
ESV

2) *"Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work **come from a man's envy of his neighbor.** This also is **vanity** and a striving after wind."*
Ecclesiastes 4:4 ESV

b) **Jealousy:** A feeling or showing bitterness toward, suspicion of, or resenting someone because of their achievements and advantages.

1) *"for you are still of the flesh. **For while there is jealousy** and strife among you, **are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?**"*
1 Corinthians 3:3 ESV

(c) **Note: Envy and Jealousy fueled the crucifixion!**

1. "Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas. **They took counsel together that they might take Jesus by deceit and kill him.**" Matthew 26:3-4 WEBUS

2. “The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, “What are we doing? **For this man does many signs. If we leave him alone like this, everyone will believe in him,** and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” {53} **So from that day forward they took counsel that they might put him to death.”** John 11:47-48, 53 WEBUS

(8) Gossip

- (a) Avoid needless commentaries or reporting about others.

1. “A perverse man stirs up strife. **A whisperer [gossip] separates close friends.”** Proverbs 16:28 WEBUS

- a) Nothing good comes from speaking about others to others. It only ruins relationships!

- 1) A friend recently taught me something very valuable he learned from the teachings of a wise man.

- 2) “*Replace frustration with fascination.*” Become fascinated by others and by circumstances and it can limit and even eliminate your feelings of frustration, which will in turn limit and even eliminate your temptation to talk about them!

- b) Gossip only ruins relationships!

- 1) ***“He who goes about as a tale-bearer [gossip] reveals secrets [betrays confidence]; therefore don’t keep company with him who opens wide his lips [talks too much].”*** Proverbs 20:19

WEBUS

(b) Bridle your tongue!

1. ***“If anyone among you thinks himself to be religious while he doesn’t bridle his tongue, but deceives his heart, this man’s religion is worthless.”*** James 1:26

WEBUS

- a) Your claims as a Christian become worthless if you can’t keep your mouth shut!

- 1) ***“Besides, they also learn to be idle, going about from house to house. Not only idle, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.”*** 1 Timothy 5:13

WEBUS

(c) Remedy the Gossip!

1. ***“For lack of wood a fire goes out. Without gossip, a quarrel dies down.”*** Proverbs 26:20

WEBUS

- a) When you cease the gossip you eliminate the fuel that keeps the fire of dissension burning!

- 1) ***“Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking lies. Depart from evil, and do***

good. **Seek peace**, and pursue it.” Psalms
34:13-14 WEBUS

(9) Slander

(a) Avoid needless commentaries or reporting about others.

1. “**You shall not go around as a slanderer** among your people. “‘You shall not **endanger the life** of your neighbor. I am Yahweh.” Leviticus 19:16 WEBUS

a) Slander is the equivalent of murdering someone with your words!

1) “***Don’t speak against [slander] one another, brothers. He who speaks against [slanders] a brother and judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.***” James 4:11 WEBUS

b) Slander is the covert technique to hide your hatred of someone!

1) “He who ***hides hatred*** has lying lips. ***He who utters a slander is a fool.***” Proverbs 10:18
WEBUS

c) Slander is equivalent to betrayal!

1) “***One who brings gossip [slander] betrays a confidence, but one who is of a trustworthy***

spirit is one who keeps a secret.” Proverbs 11:13

WEBUS

(b) Remedy the Slander!

1. “**Let all** bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, and **slander be put away from you**, with all malice. And **be kind to one another**, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just **as God also in Christ forgave you.**” Ephesians 4:31-32 WEBUS

a) If you focus all your attention at all times on what God did for you in Christ, you will have no time nor any appetite for slander.

- 1) “***Putting away*** therefore all wickedness, all deceit, hypocrisies, envies, and ***all evil speaking [slander]***, as newborn babies, ***long for the pure spiritual milk, that with it you may grow***, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” 1 Peter 2:1-3 WEBUS

b) Grow out of being a newborn baby in Christ into an adult Christians by... Practicing Celebration

B. Practice Celebration

- (1) **Introduction: Practice Celebrating Others!**

(a) **Practice Celebration:** Enjoy the success of others and honor them with words of life for all of their accomplishments.

1. **“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear.”** Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS

a) Someone has something you want but don’t have... Instead of comparing yourself to others; and your contentment and satisfaction being based on correlating your life with theirs; and instead of needing equity, equivalence, or superiority; and instead of coveting, gossiping, and slandering...

Practice Celebrating Others!

1) **“If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God...”** 1 Peter 4:11 WEBUS

b) If you are going to say anything at all about someone, speak what God would speak so...

1) ...that it may impart grace to those who hear.

(b) Corrupt Speech and the power of words!

1. **“So the tongue is also a little member, and boasts great things.** See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! And **the tongue is a fire. The world of**

iniquity among our members is the tongue, which **defiles the whole body**, and sets on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire by Gehenna.” James 3:5-6

WEBUS

- a) The Tongue: a tiny body part with massive power:
 - 1) It is able to infect and control the entire body, and influence every situation.
 - 2) It is so powerful that it can dictate the outcome of just about anything—like a small spark can ignite an entire forest into flames!
 - 3) Imagine any recent California wild fire, where a careless camper might have dropped a match or left a campfire unattended, and a small tinder lets a piece of glowing ash escape.
 - 4) First it ignites a little bush and next thousands and thousands of acres are burned, as well as homes and every other asset.
 - 5) The tongue operates like that. It’s a small matchstick or glowing timber that releases a small piece of glowing ash. **Remember:** *“For lack of wood a fire goes out. **Without gossip, a quarrel dies down.**”* Proverbs 26:20

- 6) The tongue is a world of iniquity. This small member can release sin from its root.
 - 7) The tongue is instrumental in forming words and those words that can speak either life or death.
 - 8) Why? The power of creation is in the words!
- b) The word became flesh...
- 1) ***"The Word became flesh** and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:14 WEBUS
- c) Hide the Word in your heart!
- 1) ***"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, Yahweh. Teach me your statutes. With my lips, I have declared all the ordinances of your mouth."*** Psalms 119:11-13 WEBUS

(2) Life & Death: A Tongue of Fire

- (a) What fuels the tongue?
1. "For every kind of animal, bird, creeping thing, and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; but nobody can tame **the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God** and Father, **and with it we curse men** who

are made **in the image of God. Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing.** My brothers, **these things ought not to be so.** Does a spring send out from the same opening fresh and bitter water?"

James 3:7-11 WEBUS

- a) **Taming the tongue:** Taming the tongue means you have full control over what precedes from your mouth!
 - 1) **Can man tame the tongue?** On his own, without the Holy Spirit, a man has no chance to control his tongue. Only a man with the Spirit of God can direct his tongue appropriately (at all times).
 - 2) **Unruly evil, full of deadly poison:** Under the influence of the human spirit, the tongue is a wild untamable animal. It is fully animated by evil and only spews forth poison.
- b) Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing; we bless God and curse man...
 - 1) Hypocrisy: you act one way toward God but in the natural world you are different. This is just smoke and mirrors. What you are on the outside

is ALWAYS a reflection of your true nature on the inside.

2) (See: [In the Image of God](#)) We are created in God's image. That means, how you treat others is EXACTLY how you are treating God!

c) And it also means that your words have power...

1) **The Power of Creation is in Words:** God said... (Genesis 1:3) and there was. God created all things with His words! And you are created in the similitude of God! Therefore, inherent in your words is the power of creation. You have a choice: with your words, create life or death!

d) Man shall live by THE WORD!

1) *"But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth.**'"* Matthew 4:4

WEBUS

e) The Power of Creation: If you are made in God's image, and He spoke creation into existence, then the words you speak have the power of creation!

1) You have a choice: loose from your mouth, either life or death. But you cannot do both!

- 2) Choose! Life and Death, Good and Evil,
Blessings or Cursing (see Deut. 30:15-20)
- 3) Be careful—if the power of creation is on your
lips, “***Death and life are in the power of the
tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit.***”
(Proverbs 18:21 WEBUS), then your words WILL
accomplish what they proclaim.

(b) Whoever **says** to his brother, ‘Raca!’

1. “But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his
brother without a cause will be in danger of the
judgment. **Whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’** will
be in danger of the council. **Whoever says, ‘You
fool!’** will be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.”

Matthew 5:22 WEBUS

- a) Raca: is an Aramaic term, a serious sin of scorn
and contempt. It means “empty, worthless or
empty-headed.”

(c) The Fork Tongue

1. “**Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing.**
My brothers, these things ought not to be so.” James
3:10 WEBUS

- a) **Meaning:** To “speak with a forked tongue” means to lie, deceive, or say one thing while meaning another.
- b) **Origin:** This metaphor comes from the biblical image of the serpent in the Garden of Eden and the perceived deceptive nature of reptiles like snakes.

(3) **Honoring others with words of life** (for who they are and/or their accomplishments)...

- (a) Be careful and intentional about the words that emanate from your mouth (heart).
 - 1. “Let your speech always be with grace, **seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:6 WEBUS
 - a) Let **your words** be inspired by God’s grace.
 - b) Like the food that **goes into your mouth** and nourishes your body becomes more flavorful with salt, the words that **come from your mouth** can be seasoned by flavoring everything you say to honor God and to nourish others.
 - c) You are called to be the salt of the earth...it begins with what you allow out of your mouth. If the “flavor” of your words is foul and bitter, then you

will be useless for God's purposes, not even fit for a pile of manure.

- 1) ***"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men."*** Matthew 5:13

WEBUS

- 2) ***"Salt is good, but if the salt becomes flat and tasteless, with what do you season it? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*** Luke 14:34-35 WEBUS

- d) Salt that loses its flavor becomes flat and tasteless... *"Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."* (See James 3:5-12)

- (b) Words seasoned with salt can impart God's grace! Can you imagine the immense responsibility and honor it is to be called to share God's grace with your words?

1. ***"If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be as of the strength which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the***

glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1

Peter 4:11 WEBUS

- a) If you are going to say anything...
 - 1) Speak as if your words are God’s words.
 - 2) Serve as if all your strength comes from God.
 - 3) Speak and do only things that glorify God.
- (c) Remember, when you speak, it is as if God is speaking through you!
 - 1. “We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, **as though God were entreating by us:** we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 WEBUS

- a) Take the time to choose your words carefully, as if they are the words of God: *“you are an ambassador for Christ, and it’s **as if God is speaking through you...**”*
- 2. In everything you say and do, God should be glorified through Jesus Christ.
 - a) *“**Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth,** but only what is good for building others*

up as the need may be, **that it may give grace to those who hear.**" Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS

3. The words you speak can be life to others!

a) "**It is the spirit who gives life.** The flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life.**" John 6:63 WEBUS

(4) Use your words to impart God's grace...

(a) The wise use of words:

1. "**The heart of the wise instructs his mouth,** and adds learning to his lips. **Pleasant words are a honeycomb,** sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Proverbs 16:23-24 WEBUS

a) Your words should be sweet like honey to others if you intend to touch them for God.

b) You can either murder them with your words or impart life into their souls!

1) "*A man's stomach is filled with **the fruit of his mouth.** With the harvest of his lips he is satisfied. **Death and life are in the power of the tongue;** those who love it will eat its fruit.*" Proverbs 18:20-21 WEBUS

2) **Note:** a man's words will also feed himself. Words of life fertilize his abundant harvest!

c) The more you talk the greater the opportunity you have to say something wrong, so measure your words carefully.

1) *“He who hides hatred has lying lips. He who utters a slander is a fool. **In the multitude of words there is no lack of disobedience, but he who restrains his lips does wisely. The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver. The heart of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but the foolish die for lack of understanding. Yahweh’s blessing brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. It is a fool’s pleasure to do wickedness, but wisdom is a man of understanding’s pleasure.”*** Proverbs 10:18-23 WEBUS

d) If the eyes are the window to the soul, the mouth is its security guard.

1) *“**He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.**”*
Proverbs 13:3 WEBUS

e) What exits the mouth is what is truly in your heart!

1) *“The good man out of **the good treasure of his heart** brings out that which is good, and the evil*

*man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out that which is evil, **for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks.***” Luke 6:45

WEBUS

- f) When you speak too soon, your chances of injuring someone with your words increases exponentially.
 - 1) “***There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals.*** Truth’s lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only momentary.” Proverbs 12:18-19 WEBUS
- g) With your mouth you can either invite conflict or inspire peace. The wise man nurtures life with his words.
 - 1) “***A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools gush out folly. Yahweh’s eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit.***” Proverbs 15:1-4 WEBUS

(5) Guard your words by training your mind...

(a) Renew your mind daily by only focusing on things that are pleasing to God.

1. “Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don’t be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.**” Romans 12:1-2 WEBUS

a) To be pleasing to God you must capture every thought and submit it to the Lord, BEFORE it manifests as useless words out of your mouth or ungodly actions!

1) *“For though we walk in the flesh, we don’t wage war according to the flesh; **for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God** to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience*

when your obedience is made full.” 2

Corinthians 10:3-6 WEBUS

(b) What would it look like to celebrate others even when they seem to be...

1. ...more favored (blessed) than you?
2. ...more accomplished than you?
3. ...more established than you?
4. ...more successful than you?
5. ...more abundant than you?
6. ...more happy than you?

(c) It looks like...

Prayer: I SURRENDER MY COMPARISON TO OTHERS (*I will no longer limit my contentment to or base my satisfaction on correlating my life with others. I have no further need for equity, equivalence, or even superiority. I will avoid needless commentaries or reporting about others.*) AND I PRACTICE CELEBRATING OTHERS (*I will enjoy the success of others and honor them with words of life for their accomplishments*)!

ASSIGNMENT #4

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. “For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. “But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known.” Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. “For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**” Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. “For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS
- E. “For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen

to those who don't obey the Good News of God?" 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. Surrender Comparisons

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly. Do you compare yourself to others? Is your contentment or satisfaction based on correlating your life with others? Do you feel the need for equity, equivalence, or even superiority?

- 1) ***"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out."*** 1 Timothy 6:6-7

3. Practice Celebration

A. What would it look like for you to celebrate others even when they seem to be more favored, more accomplished, more established, more successful, more abundant, and more happy than you? Someone has something you want but don't have; how will you enjoy the success of others and honor them with words of life for their accomplishments? Who will hold you accountable to do so?

- 1) ***"Let no corrupt speech [unwholesome words] proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up [edifying others] according to their needs, that it may impart grace to those who hear."*** Ephesians 4:29