

THE VOICE

Part 1: "Lend Me Your Ears"
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"The tongue can speak words that bring life or death. Those who love to talk must be ready to accept what it brings."

Proverbs 18:21 (ERV)

THE VOICES THAT I ALLOW IN MY LIFE HAVE THE POWER TO...

1. ...BRING <u>LIFE</u> TO THINGS THAT ARE <u>INSIDE</u> <u>OF ME</u>

"And do you know how many forest fires begin with a single ember from a small campfire? The tongue is a blazing fire seeking to ignite an entire world of vices. The tongue is unique among all parts of the body because it is capable of corrupting the whole body. If that were not enough, it ignites and consumes the course of creation with a fuel that originates in hell itself."

James 3:5-6 (TVB)

2. ...FOREVER CHANGE THE WAY <u>I SEE</u> ANOTHER <u>PERSON</u>

"It is better to be respected than to be rich. A good name is worth more than silver or gold."

Proverbs 22:1 (ERV)

"With their words hypocrites can destroy their neighbors."

Proverbs 11:9 (ERV)

"A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends."

Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)

3. ...<u>PLANT SEEDS</u> THAT WILL YIELD A LIFETIME OF <u>FRUIT</u>

"Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit."

Galatians 6:7-8 (NLT)

4. ...CHANGE MY <u>HEART</u> AND MY <u>MESSAGE</u>

"A person full of goodness in his heart produces good things; a person with an evil reservoir in his heart pours out evil things. The heart overflows in the words a person speaks; your words reveal what's within your heart."

Luke 6:45 (TVB)

I TAKE CONTROL OF THE VOICES THAT INFLUENCE MY LIFE BY...

1. ...<u>DECIDING</u> WHO I WANT TO BE, NOT REMAINING WHO I ALREADY AM

"So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female."

Genesis 1:27 (NCV)

"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, <u>God made us new people so that we</u> would spend our lives doing the good things he had already planned for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 (ERV)

"We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One."

2 Corinthians 10:5 (TVB)

2. ...<u>TUNING-OUT</u> THE VOICES THAT DON'T CARRY A MESSAGE WORTH LISTENING TO

"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

Luke 6:37-38 (MSG)

"A person who talks about others tells secrets. So avoid anyone who talks too much."

Proverbs 20:19 (NIRV)

3. ...<u>INVITING</u> VOICES THAT SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF <u>HEALTH</u>

"What happens if a blind man leads a blind man? Won't both of them fall into a pit? You can't turn out better than your teacher; when you're fully taught, you will resemble your teacher. Speaking of blindness: Why do you focus on the speck in your brother's eye? Why don't you see the log in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Oh, brother, let me help you take that little speck out of your eye,' when you don't even see the big log in your own eye? What a hypocrite! First, take the log out of your own eye. Then you'll be able to see clearly enough to help your brother with the speck in his eye."

Luke 6:39-42 (TVB)