

**December 5, 2018**  
**7 Pillars of Proverbs - The Words We Speak**  
**Proverbs 18:21**  
**Malcolm Marshall**

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” - Proverbs 18:21 (CSB)*

**Words of Death: HARMFUL SPEECH**

**Lying:** Intentional untruth made with the deliberate aim to deceive. (*Proverbs 12:22, 10:18-21, 20:17, 21:6; Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:25*)

**Gossip:** Empty, aimless, non-edifying commentary, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. (*Proverbs 11:13, 16:27-28, 17:9, 25:9-10, 26:20-24; Romans 1:29; II Corinthians 12:20*)

**Flattery:** Insincere praise or enticing words used to win another’s favor and/or to manipulate. (*Proverbs 26:28, 29:5; Romans 16:18; Galatians 1:10; I Thessalonians 2:5-6*)

**Profanity:** Language deemed irreverent, obscene and/or vulgar. (*Proverbs 10:32, 18:21, 20:20; Matthew 12:36, 15:11; II Timothy 2:16; James 3:10*)

**Words of Life: HELPFUL SPEECH**

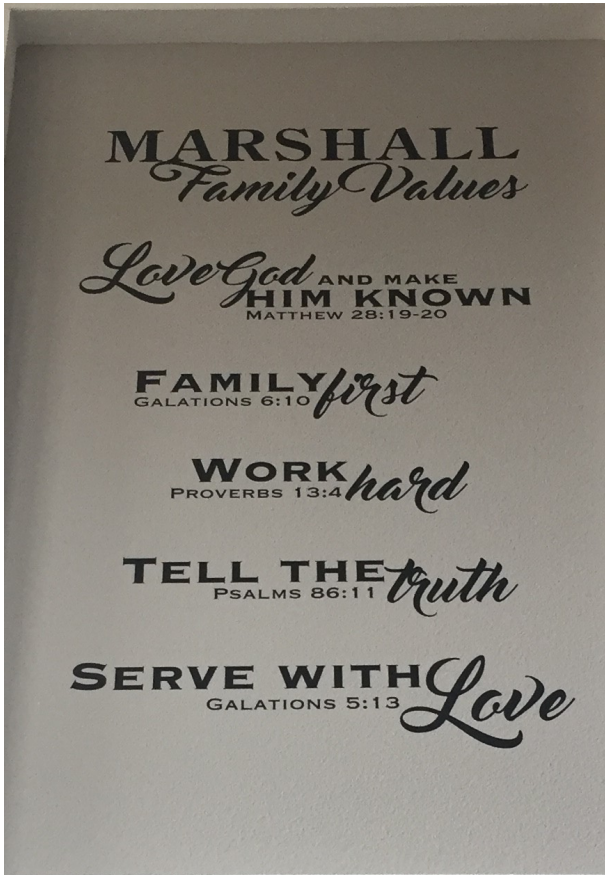
**Edifying** Words (*Proverbs 10:11, 10:20, 10:21, 12:25, 16:24*)

**Thoughtful** Words (*Proverbs 13:2-3, 15:2, 21:23, 17:27-28*)

**Timely** Words (*Proverbs 15:23, 15:28, 25:11; Isaiah 50:4*)

**Practical Application:** To develop more helpful speech & less harmful speech, you must be able to honestly answer this question: What’s the condition of your **heart**? (*Proverbs 4:23; James 1:26; James 3:2-10; Luke 6:45; I John 3:18*)

**CLOSING ILLUSTRATION:**



**Summary statement in two sentences:** To avoid harmful speech, be sure to **taste** your words before you spit them out. To embrace helpful speech, remember that all it takes is a **clean** heart.